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EDUCATION is not just about learning facts and figures, but is also about possessing the ability to think and see both sides of an argument, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

“Open up your mind and always ask why,” the Prime Minister advised hundreds of students at the close of the National Academic Decathlon at LimKokWing University of Creative Technology in Cyberjaya recently.

He said the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 was designed to groom the younger generation to become well-rounded and holistic leaders of tomorrow. “It’s not just about excelling academically and passing examinations,” he said.

“That is why the Government has been working tirelessly towards ensuring Malaysia reaches high income status in 2020,” he added.

“And, it is crucial that you receive world-class education that will enable Malaysia to remain competitive to succeed further,” said Najib, adding that he was impressed by the students’ overwhelming response to competitions such as the academic decathlon.

“To qualify for this must have taken great intelligence, wit and hard work,” he said.

“I’m sure all of you have now discovered more about yourself and realised what you are capable of achieving.”

Think and question, PM tells students

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Kudos to all: Najib applauds the winners of the decathlon after the prize presentation ceremony. NAD chairman Prof Tan Sri Dr Ibrahim Shah Abu Shah (with brown jacket) is on his left. - Bernama

The three-day event was a combination of disciplines that included debating, writing, public speaking and quizzes.

Jointly organised by the Malaysia Institute of Debate and Public

Speaking, Umno Education Bureau, the Education Ministry as well as the Youth and Sports Ministry, the decathlon aimed to raise the competitiveness of the students and groom future leaders.

More than 1,000 secondary school students nationwide took part in the event, which will pick winners to represent Malaysia in the prestigious World Scholar’s Cup hosted at Yale University in November.